THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Inadequate security at Sahar Airport Bombay

*145. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that security set up at Sahar Airport in Bombay is inadequate; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated to improve the arrangements there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad rail line

*147 SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert Delhi-Ahmedabad metre gauge rail line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, whether any amount has been earmarked for this purpose in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Delhi-Ahmedabad route is a prestigious metre gauge route, with superfast trains running at 100 km/h. Besides, it has been selected for further upgradation to make it fit in all respects to cater to the anticiapted future needs of traffic. According to the present policy, gauge conversion is proposed based only on operational requirements.

Import of locomotives and wagons by Railway

*149. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import locomotives and bogies/wagons;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such imports when indigenous locomotives, wagons and bogies of equal standards are available; and

(c) what is the amount of foreign exchange involved in such imports during the last two years and the estimated foreign exchange likely to be incurred during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) It is proposed to import a limited number of locomotives and bogies to acquire state-of-the-art technology from abroad to establish and update indigenous technology of the rolling stock.

(c) During the last two years orders have been placed only for a limited number of wagon bogies at a cost of approximately Rs. 4.71 crores and locomotives bogies at a cost of approximately Rs. 14.36 crores. Global tenders for the procurement of locomotives are under evaluation and the amount of foreign exchange likely to be required for these, will be known only when they are finalised.

Delay in railway electrification projects

*150. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have failed to exercise proper control over timely exe-